

The Groundplane

SBARA—The South Bay Amateur Radio Association KU6S

February, 2015
Volume 15, Issue 2



ARRL Member
Club Since 1974



SBARA Presidents Message February 2015

SBARA NEEDS YOUR HELP! Let me repeat...
SBARA NEEDS YOUR HELP! No...seriously... I'll
repeat one more time... **SBARA NEEDS YOUR
HELP!**

I apologize for repeating myself, but I really need you all to understand that SBARA truly needs your help in various areas at various levels. Active participation in these areas helps ensure the sustainability of the club! I really feel we have some great momentum going. Please help!

SBARA MEMBERSHIP - It's time to renew your SBARA membership! Renewal packets were mailed out in December. Please contact JJ Lerma, Membership Chairman, if you didn't receive one! JJ's email address is available on the SBARA Leadership Team webpage at: <http://www.sbara.org/officers.html> The sooner you mail in your dues, the sooner JJ can get them processed. Many of you enjoyed a free year of membership as part of obtaining your new license. We are glad to have you and hope that you will renew your membership and continue to participate.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING RAFFLE AND REFRESHMENT HELP – Ray Fellers has been

wearing several "hats" over the last year. He is a member of the SBARA Board as Secretary. But he has also been serving as both refreshment and raffle coordinator. Just like most things in life, when you have help, the work is easier and more fun. We are all VERY busy with work, hobbies, parenting, etc. If each of us takes on a small piece, it spreads the load to make it more manageable. One or two people can get together and share these duties. Handling refreshments just requires you to bring snacks to the membership meetings for the break. SBARA will reimburse you! It can be as easy as stopping by the store the day before or on your way to the meeting. As to the raffle duties, it's a matter of stopping by HRO to pick-up three items for the raffle. You can do this once a month or plan ahead and pickup items in advance. We can share a list of past items, but would welcome new ideas for items you think would be fun and interesting. Again... SBARA will reimburse you for the items. *[NOTE: The secret word for a free raffle ticket at the next meeting is: TRANCEIVER. Write this word on a piece of paper and hand it in for one, free raffle ticket.]*
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Presidents Message (cont'd.)

PLEASE consider helping in one of these two areas so we can give Ray (Thank you, Ray!) a much needed break. We don't want Ray...or any other members...to burn out!!! PLEASE HELP SHARE THE LOAD!

SBARA BOARD – Here is an invitation for you... PLEASE come join us at a SBARA Board of Directors meeting. You do not have to be a board member or appointee to attend! It is a great way for you to get a sense of how the board works and get ideas as to how you might help support your club. Since

the meeting location is a bit fluid, it is best to check with a board member to confirm the meeting location.

Please contact me, or any board member, if participating in any of these areas piques your interest. Our email addresses are available on the SBARA Leadership Team webpage at: <http://www.sbara.org/officers.html>

Oh...and one last thing...I'm always open to suggestions and feedback. Please feel free to email me or pull me aside at a meeting.

73!

Steve KG6HJU

SBARA President

From the Editor

Welcome to another edition of the Groundplane!

February might be the shortest month, but it is still full of operating events and things to do. They include; Sprints,, QSO Parties, to contests running several modes, CW, SSB and RTTY the most common.

There has been a growing number of club members getting up to speed and using digital modes. February provides two great opportunities to try out your RTTY setup. First up is the CQ WPX RTTY, a DX contest where call-sign prefixes are multipliers, and a great chance to pick up some new countries towards a digital mode DXCC. Next is the NAQP RTTY. January hosted the CW and SSB modes, and this is the final mode for this first round of the event, and is a great chance to tick off those contacts for a digital mode WAS. The 21st plays host to the ARRL DX CW mode, a chance to get more DX in the log as the DX will be hunting *you*.

With so much to do, don't sit on the sidelines – get on the air, join in some on air activities and meet new friends.

I challenge you to make twice as many contacts in 2015 than you did in 2014!

Bill, WB9YVM

Editor, SBARA Groundplane

News from the Fremont Communication Volunteers

Dear Reader,

We will try to provide you with news from the Fremont Communications Volunteers group (formerly "Fremont ARES") on a regular basis from now on. We have exciting plans for this year, and we could imagine that you might get interested in what this group does.

Apart from a number of emergency communication drills, often performed at one or more of the Fremont Fire Stations, we are planning these events:

1) The group has worked on a channel plan (frequency use list) for the latter half of 2014. This plan will become effective on Saturday, March 21st, after a radio programming workshop. We will advertise the details. It probably will start on that Saturday at 9 am and end early afternoon, and we probably will request a training room at Fire Admin. Stay tuned. What's in it for you? You will be able to use a unified logical channel list on your handheld or mobile radio, without losing the ability to use your own frequencies. You need to bring the radios you wish to program and perhaps a laptop. We will bring programming cables, however if you have one on your own, it may be helpful to bring it along as well.

2) We have successfully held packet radio classes in Fremont in the past, however could not do any in 2014. We are planning a new packet radio class in Q2 2015. We will continue using the Outpost software.

3) In 2013, we had an introduction to NBEMS, which allows to use digital modes in a very simple way (Laptop speaker to microphone, radio speaker to laptop microphone), and thus

transferring digital information reliably. We are planning another workshop in Q3.

These are only the highlights. There are more things going on. For example, we are pushing the Mesh Network efforts, using commonly available Wifi hardware to interconnect computers over larger distances. This would be an invaluable asset in disaster communications. Also, we have cooperated with the fire department last programming their radios and hope that we can help again this year. CERT will receive a number of radio talks from us. And we will try to have speakers at our monthly meetings.

You see, it might be interesting to pay us a visit! When? Every third Thursday 7:30 pm at Fire Admin, 3300 Capitol, Fremont.

Dates 2015:

Feb 19

Mar 19

Apr 16

May 21

Jun 18

Jul 16

Aug 20

Sep17

Oct 15

Nov 19.

No meeting in December.

Until then, please chime in on the weekly net every Tuesday on WA6PWW, 147.015 MHz, positive offset, 103.5 Hz subtone.

73,

Bernhard AE6YN

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Editor, SBARA Groundplane

Slow-Charge Your Batteries

We've heard the term "fast and easy" so often that we've come to believe that's the best way to do things. It's not necessarily true, and it's certainly not true when it comes to charging your batteries. Fast

chargers heat up your batteries and considerably shorten their life spans. Ultimately, it is cheaper and more efficient to have several batteries on hand and rotate them through a slow charger.

SBARA

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association, is a general interest amateur radio club serving the Fremont Tri-City area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1974, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an California not-for-profit corporation, and a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes. We sponsor training classes for new hams, license examination sessions, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

The South Bay Amateur Radio Association meets on the 2nd Friday of every month at Hurricane Electric in Fremont. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time, a business portion and a program of interest.

All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome.

We hope to see you there!



Fremont Repeaters & Net Information

*Are you looking for your favorite Repeater?
Here is information you can use!*

WA6PWW— 147.015 + 600Khz, PL 103.5	600Khz, PL 123.0
WA6PWW—223.900— 500Khz, PL 107.2	K6AIR—441.525 +5Mhz, PL 123.0
WA6PWW—442.600 +5Mhz, PL107.2	ARES Net Meeting— Tuesday Evenings @ 7:30pm on 147.015+600Khz, PL 103.5
K6AIR—146.940—	

Time to dust off those Keys....

The Slow CW net is taking place
Every Thursday and Sunday night at 7:30 pm on 144.230MHz.

The net has now its own e-mail address. Please contact us here:
"SF Bay CW Enthusiasts" <sf-bay-cw-enthusiasts at googlegroups.com>

—... —"

Bernhard AE6YN

SBARA Meeting Location Second Friday of the Month

Our meeting location is at:
Hurricane Electric.
The address in Fremont is:
760 Mission Court — Come to the meeting.
Bring your HF transceiver, antenna or HT !
Talk-In 147.015Mhz. +600
Mingle with your fellow SBARA members!

SBARA - Groundplane

The Groundplane is published monthly by the South Bay Amateur Radio Association. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is the 20th day of each month for the next month's news-letter. Articles can be sent by email to hamradio at Comcast dot net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.



Upcoming SBARA Events

SBARA Action Packed Meeting is February 13th.! Fantastic Raffle Prizes—So Come to the Meeting for the Fellowship!

[Amateur Exams](#)

ARRL VEC— March 10th @ 9:00am at Hurricane Electric — 48233 Warm Springs Blvd. Fremont. **Contact: Greg** at wy6pradio@gmail.com \$15 fee. Walk-ins allowed.

Additional information is described at the SBARA's Website, www.sbara.org

Select License Exams from the Navigation URL.

South Bay Amateur Radio Association — SBARA

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<http://www.sbara.org>

P.O. Box 8401

Fremont, Ca.

PLEASE
PLACE
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HERE